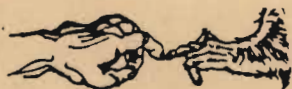


IN MOURNING

Paulette Callen

I saw a muskrat in the park
Lying at an entrance to her home
Oval mound of underbelly exposed
Tiny feet with long shapely nails
Curled gracefully in death
Her buck teeth protruding slightly
Between parted lips
Chestnut hair
Rustled by the breeze
Still glistens
No wounds
Poison then
Feeling ill, did she try to make it home
and get only this far -- to her doorstep?
Or, was she underground, and did she
want to die in the sun?



LETTERS

Dear Editors:

I am a new reader of Between the Species. The article in the Summer, 1986, issue by James Nelson, "Xenograft and Partial Affections," together with the various responses, has prompted this letter.

It seems that Nelson rests his hypothetical case on a parent's "partial affection" for his/her child, implying that parental affection is of such supreme significance that virtual moral carte blanche may be granted in its name. In his "Response," Nelson states that "parental affection . . . is surely among the more morally significant." He goes on to say, "Exactly where the moral force of this kind of partial affection comes from, and exactly how it relates to spousal affections, filial affections, and so forth, is something that requires further investigation." I dare say it requires further investigation--especially when Nelson's entire xenograft case is built upon viewing

(continued on p. 18)

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